

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed June 13, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-18 were previously pending in this application. Claims 8 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-7 and 10-16 have been withdrawn. As a result, claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 are pending for examination with claims 8 and 17 being independent. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 9, 17, and 18. Although Applicants do not agree with the rejections made in the Office Action, Applicants have taken the advice of the Examiner in order to expedite prosecution. Thus, claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender, U.S. Patent No. 2,622,125. Applicants traverse this rejection but have withdrawn these claims in order to expedite prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to refile these claims in a continuation application.


Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By   
James M. Smith  
Registration No. 28,043  
Telephone: (978) 341-0036  
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 9/13/06